

ACCESSING YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT

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LONG'S BILL TO CREATE EXTREME SPORTS PARKS PASSES

Teaming up once again with the Fort Wayne Parks Department, Senator David Long authored a bill that will help communities build new facilities for extreme sports enthusiasts. Extreme sports include rollerblading, skateboarding, and freestyle bicycling, and represent the fastest growing sports in the world.

However, there are few if any venues for our children to practice these sports. While we have been quick to build soccer fields, baseball fields, and swimming pools, there are few, if any, extreme sports parks. The reason: the risk of lawsuits from injured participants has been too great to allow the construction of

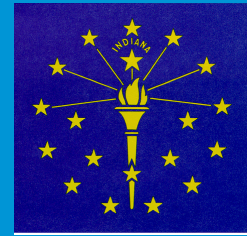
these parks to proceed. Senator Long's legislation will allow local governments to construct these parks by limiting their liability. Safeguards in the law will ensure that these parks are maintained in a safe manner to protect those who use them.

Testimony from Fort Wayne area parents and children in committee hearings helped convince the legislature that the need for these parks truly exists.

Similar legislation in California, Florida and Washington has allowed extreme sports parks to blossom in these states. Hopefully, the same will be true for Indiana. Plans for such a park in Fort Wayne are already underway.

State Senator David Long
Senate, Indiana Statehouse
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM STATE SENATOR DAVID LONG



LONG'S NEW LAW TO STOP TELEMARKETING CALLS MAY BE TOUGHEST IN THE US

After three years of trying, Senator David Long was successful in creating a new law restricting telemarketing calls within Indiana. Joining with Rep. Dale Sturtz in a bi-partisan partnership, Sen. Long helped craft what is being called the toughest telemarketing law in the country.

Hoosiers fed up with the constant barrage of telemarketing calls into their homes now have a way to help stop these calls and regain some of their privacy.

Under the law, Attorney General Steve Carter will compile a list of Indiana citizens who call his office seeking to have their names placed in a Do Not Call directory. Hoosiers have until December 31st to get on the initial list. After that, telemarketers may

no longer call the numbers of anyone whose names are listed.

What has undermined these laws in other states are the large number of exemptions, ie. businesses to whom the law didn't apply. In our state, there are only four exemptions, far and away the fewest of any state. Exempt organizations are charities, newspapers, licensed realtors, and licensed insurance agents. However, none of these organizations may use professional telemarketing companies to make their calls. Instead, the calls must be made by their own employees or volunteers.

To add your name to the "no call" list, telephone the Attorney General's office toll free at 1-888-834-9969, or 1-800-382-5516.

Keep in touch!

Write to me at:
Senate,
Indiana Statehouse
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN
46204

Phone me at my
Senate office:
1-800-382-9467

Please visit my web-
site:
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Inside... Senate redistricting....license branch reform... other new laws...

2001 INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS



Senator Long joins Senator Teresa Lubbers and Representative Phyllis Pond in a press conference highlighting the new Charter School Bill.

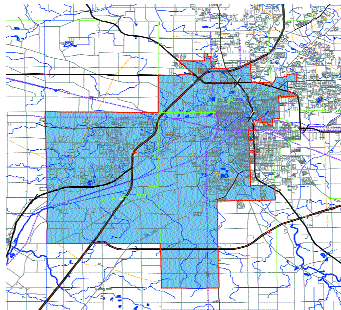
NEW DISTRICTS REFLECT POPULATION SHIFTS

New state legislative district boundaries will take effect next year, due to legislation enacted recently by the Indiana Legislature.

The boundaries were drawn using data from the 2000 U.S. census to equalize the population from district to district, upholding the "one person, one vote" principle as well as complying with guidelines concerning geo-

graphical compactness and "communities of interest."

Each of Indiana's fifty Senate districts will have a population of approximately 121,600 residents. The map here shows the new Senate district as BLUE.



All approved legislative maps will take effect immediately after the 2002 Fall election.

LEGISLATION WILL HELP THE REVITALIZATION OF SOUTHTOWN MALL

There has been a lot of talk about how the State legislature could help in the effort to revive the fortunes of Southtown Mall. A bill co-authored by Senator David Long and recently signed by the Governor may be just the medicine needed to help revitalize the troubled commercial center.

Senate Bill 452 will annually allow up to \$1 million dollars in state income and sales taxes generated from commercial activity on the Southtown property to be retained in Fort Wayne rather than sent to the State treasury. This money can then be used to help pay off bonds or other expenses that have been

incurred to reconstruct the property, including a new entry off of US 27. An ordinance must be passed by the Fort Wayne City Council, and then approved by the State. This ordinance will not be introduced until a definite plan for the Southtown renewal has been finalized. Once passed, the new law may be in place for up to 15 years.



Laws such as this have been in place for a number of years to help cities like Indianapolis rebuild its downtown area. Now, Fort Wayne and its taxpayers will be able to enjoy the benefits of these laws too. The future is looking much brighter for the Southtown area.

DID YOU KNOW?

State Senator David Long achieved a 99.8 percent voting record during the 2001 Indiana General Assembly.

When the votes were taken in the Indiana Senate, Senator Long was there to represent the people of his district.

REFORM LEGISLATION MAKES LICENSE BRANCHES MORE CUSTOMER-FRIENDLY

Reducing long waiting lines at license branches by eliminating the need for some visits to branches, removing red tape and upgrading technology is the aim of a new state law that will affect every Hoosier motorist.

Under the new law, motorists can register their vehicles at any license branch in the state, not only at a branch in their home county. The bill also revises the schedule for vehicle registrations so that a portion of each month's registrations will expire in mid-

month, rather than the end of the month. This should help alleviate the end-of-month rush.

Further, the bill will enable a driver to renew his or her operator's license by mail or computer every other time the license expires.



Licenses must be renewed every four years.

The cost to upgrade license branch technology to make these improvements possible will be funded by a 50-cent increase in some license branch fees in each of the next two years.



Senator Long teaches pages about several bills that were presented before the Senate.